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WKU Student Affairs

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Forum held to discuss role of judiciary

page 6



Lady Tops split Eastern games

Page 14

Thursday, April 20, 2006 • Volume 81, Number 44

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Western Kentucky University • Bowling Green, Kentucky

Student News. Faculty News. Alumni News. All News.

Western to get \$15 million gift

Official announcement of record donation will be at 4 p.m.

By AMBER COULTER
Herald reporter

Western officials will announce today the largest single-donor gift in its 100-year history and possibly one of the largest single-donor gifts to a Kentucky university.

There will be a major donation announcement at 4 p.m., President Gary Ransdell said.

The donation is from Jerry Baker, a

consistent donor to Western and the Bowling Green community, he said.

A press release from the university relations department said the press conference will be at Baker's home at 4701 Morgantown Road.

According to information obtained by the Herald, the donation is for \$15 million and will be given to Western upon his death.

Administrators declined to comment on or confirm the donation's

amount or what the money is going toward before today's announcement.

Tom Hiles, vice president of institutional advancement, said the donation is a major leadership gift. Such gifts start at \$50,000.

"But let's say we don't have many press conferences for \$50,000 gifts," Hiles said.

Baker owns a 14-acre arboretum on his estate on Morgantown Road that was established in 1992, according to

Western's Web site. An arboretum is a place where trees and shrubs are grown for exhibition.

Baker's gift includes his home, the arboretum and grounds his art collection. There will also be an \$11 million cash endowment to support the property and scholarships, a source stated.

The arboretum features conifers, Japanese maples, dogwoods and a shade garden, the Web site states.

There is also an art house featuring

the work of artist Joe Downing, the brother of former President Dero Downing.

Baker's donation surpasses contributions from other private single donors.

The record for the largest single gift to Western was the \$10.6 million that Gordon Ford donated to the College of Business in December 1998, the Herald reported. Administrators dedicated the college in his name a year later.

The donation would also exceed the record single-donor gift to any

SEE GIFT, PAGE 6



Jesse Osbourne/Herald

Staff Regent Pat Jordan argued her points at the parking forum in Grise Hall Auditorium yesterday afternoon. Many faculty members came to the two open forums to make their opinions heard about parking on campus. The first forum lasted about an hour-and-a-half, with tempers flaring several times throughout.

Parking issues incite crowd

What do you think?



"This was more like a presentation; I think they already have their mind made up. They're going to pass the increase."

—PEGGY HAAS
Vesper, Wis., graduate student



"I think the department has grown too fast, and now they're passing the funding on to faculty and students."

—ELIZABETH PARIS
business coordinator for Information Technology

Employees object to permit cost increases

By ANDREW McNAMARA
Herald reporter

Western employees' agitation and disapproval about parking on the Hill exploded during forums about a new proposed fee yesterday.

The parking and transportation committee held two forums Wednesday at 1:30 and 5 p.m. to get feedback on proposed fees.

Staff, faculty and students locked words with parking and transportation committee members on several issues, but none were as fiercely contested as the idea of paying more money.

Most student permits and non-premium faculty and staff permits would increase from \$75 to \$90, said Jennifer Tougas, director of the parking and transportation department.

Premium faculty and staff permits would increase from \$150 to \$180, Tougas said.

Gated permits would increase from \$390 to \$470 and reserved permits would increase from \$390



Jesse Osbourne/Herald

Jennifer Tougas, director of parking and traffic improvements, presented possible solutions to parking problems to an open forum Wednesday afternoon in Grise Hall Auditorium.

to \$500, Tougas said. The parking and transportation committee also proposed charging for services that are currently free. Those services include the Nashville airport shuttle, temporary parking passes and vendor or contractor parking.

The money from the fees would pay for projects that will replace parking spaces lost when new buildings are constructed, Tougas said.

Recommended parking fee increases:

- Student permits and non-premium faculty and staff permits: - Increase from \$75 to \$90.
- Faculty and staff permits: - Increase from \$150 to \$180.
- Gated permits: - Increase from \$390 to \$470.
- Reserved permits: - Increase from \$390 to \$500.

SEE PARKING, PAGE 11

Speakers to debate pot legalization

Event intentionally held on 4-20

By STEPHANIE KEENE
Herald reporter

Marijuana. Mary Jane. Pot. Weed. Chronic, the good ol' green stuff — people know what it is.

The question is whether or not it should be legal.

The Campus Activities Board will be hosting "Heads vs. Tails, The Great Debate — Marijuana Legalization" at 7 tonight in DUC Theater.

Steven Hager, editor-in-chief of High Times magazine, will represent the "Heads" advocating the legalization of marijuana.

Bob Stutman, a retired DEA agent, will represent the "Tails" advocating the criminalization of marijuana.

The date of the event is not a coincidence.

"The fact that the debate is on 4-20 will raise more awareness," said Michael Schultz, Louisville freshman and CARL webmaster. "The date might seem like a joke to some people, but it'll help get the word out. This day will get people talking about the event."

The most celebrated day to light up is April 20, also known as 4-20. There are several legends behind this, according to marijuanacomm.

One legend says that 4:20 on a clock resembles a hand putting an instrument into a mouth, as if someone was smoking.

Another legend says that marijuana burns at 420 degrees Fahrenheit.

SEE LEGALIZATION, PAGE 9

KEES may not complete goals

Some don't get needed money

By BOBBY HARRELL
Herald reporter

Students might not be receiving the help they need from a state scholarship program, according to two assistant political science professors at Western.

Jeffrey Kash and Scott Lasley wrote a research paper describing how some students aren't using Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship money, while others aren't receiving the money they need.

The graduated nature of the program is keeping KEEs from completing its two main goals: to provide high school students with a good college education and entice Kentucky's best high school students to stay here for college, Kash said.

Lasley got the idea for the paper after hearing students complain about not getting enough KEEs money, Kash said.

SEE KEEs, PAGE 8

Go online

Check wkuherald.com tomorrow afternoon to get an update on the \$15 million donation.



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2 DAY

By the numbers

49.1

Estimated percentage of college students who have tried marijuana in their lifetime.

18.9

Estimated percentage of college students who have used marijuana within the last month.

Source: White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

WHAT'S GOING ON

- First Amendment First Program, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. today, Mass Media
- Faculty & Staff Health Fair, 7:30-11 a.m. tomorrow, Preston Center
- String Ensemble Recital, 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, FAC Recital Hall
- Guest Flutists DeBost & Chastain, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, FAC Recital Hall
- Science Olympiad, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Van Meter
- WKU Flute Choir Recital, 4 p.m. Saturday, FAC Recital Hall
- Robert Herrin Warren Symposium, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Mass Media
- Spring Sing, 7 p.m. Sunday, Van Meter Auditorium

When you drive down the street in Somerset, one house sticks out more than any other. It's unlike the other houses with gardens and trimmed grass. This house's paint is old, the yard is in disrepair and there are two La-Z-Boy chairs resting on the porch.

After Michael Boyton, 6, threw his small black and white dog into a muddy pool of

water, his twin sister Mekala arrived with a blanket to cover the puppy. She kissed him on the head as she dried him off.

"It will be all right,itty Bitty, you won't be cold in a few minutes," she said. "I can sit on you to warm you up."

Summer Crow lives next door to the Boytons. She doesn't have any children herself, but watches over the six children that live in the duplex.

"Don't sit on that dog," Crow yelled, as she petted her dog and smoked a cigarette. Michael ran around barefoot, dodging the broken plastic eggs left over from Easter. He was looking for more dogs to bathe.

"Puppies!" he screamed.

Nick Adams is a freshman photojournalism major from Houston. He can be reached at nic.holmes.adams@wku.edu.

Crime reports

Reports

• A Bowling Green police officer reported on April 17 a match fire at the Crason lot at 9:54 a.m. on the scrub bed adjacent to Russellville Road. The Bowling Green Fire Department extinguished the fire.

• Michelle C. Borowick, Glasgow, reported on April 17 a theft after her parking permit was stolen from her 1993 Pontiac Sunbird, while it was parked in the Park Street lot between April 13 and 17. The value of the theft was \$75.

• Stephen L. Ogden, Midway

Court, reported on April 17 a theft after his parking permit was stolen from his 1992 Oldsmobile Delta 88 while it was in parking structure 2 between April 12 and 14. The value of the theft was \$75.

• Jesse G. Hutter, Barnes-Campbell Hall, reported on April 17 a theft after the passenger side window of his 1998 Ford Contour was broken and several items were stolen from inside. Three necklaces, two compact disc boxes, two polo shirts, a pair of dress shorts and a pair of Oakley sunglasses were stolen. The value of the theft was \$342.

• Erik N. Libsey, Industrial

Drive, reported on April 17 a theft after his parking permit was stolen from his 1991 Ford Explorer while it was in parking structure 2 between April 14 and 17. The value of the theft was \$75.

• A false fire alarm was pulled on April 15 on the Barnes seventh floor. There were 25 people evacuated. No smoke or fire was visible.

• Gregory A. Monestere, McCormack Hall, reported on April 16 a burglary after a collection of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" DVDs was stolen from his dorm room between April 14 and 16. The value of the theft was \$400.

• Blake T. Slates, Northeast Hall, reported on April 14 a theft after his touch-screen DVD/CD player and Orion amplifier were stolen from his 2001 Lincoln Navigator while it was on the sixth level of parking structure 1 between April 13 and 14. The value of the theft was \$3,200.

• Sarah L. Burton, Rodes-Harlin Hall, reported on April 14 a theft after her black coat and 25 copied CDs were stolen from her 2005 Chevrolet 43 Classic while it was in the Kentucky Street lot between April 13 and 14. The value of the theft was \$175.

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Civic Responsibility & the Jury System

Many Americans know little about the jury system and may regret the idea of serving on a jury with dread. This seminar is designed to inform participants about the history of the jury system, the selection and duty of jurors, and common concerns seen in Warren County from local judges. Participants will raise their fears and better appreciate the important role the jury system plays in American democracy.

Panelists

Judge Steve Wilson, Warren Circuit Court, Division I
Judge John J. Cline, Warren Circuit Court, Division II
Judge Margaret Haskellevon, Warren Circuit Court, Division III
Chief Family Court Judge

Date: Tuesday, April 25

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm

Place: MMTH Auditorium

Open to the Community...Please Join Us!

For more information or to register, contact PaCJET at 270-743-6508 or pa.cjet@wku.edu. Attendance slips will be available for students who attend for credit.

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Applications for the Herald due April 21st, for the Talisman April 27th.

State government

Fletcher to veto budget items

By Amber Coulter
Herald reporter

Kentucky spends about as much money on capital projects as Pennsylvania, even with about a third of the population and half the budget, according to the governor's office.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher may try to curb that spending by next week.

Fletcher announced Tuesday that he will veto some of the projects included in the General Assembly's version of the budget. Local legislators say that shouldn't affect Western, but the governor isn't making any promises.

Fletcher said he is keeping his options open as far as which projects he will cut, said Mike Goins, director of communications for the office of the state budget director. The governor has also said that education is one of his top priorities.

The legislature's version of the budget recommended money for all of Western's priority projects. Employees in the governor's office are examining approved projects to decide which are necessary for the next two years, Goins said.

Fletcher's Communication Director Brett Hall said he and Fletcher don't know how universities will fare in the veto process.

Hall said the governor wants to provide universities with quality facilities, but he can only approve what the state can afford. Fletcher has until midnight on Monday to decide which projects he will veto, Hall said.

Robbin Taylor, assistant to the president for governmental relations, declined to comment on how safe Western's projects are, saying it would be speculation without the specifics of Fletcher's plan.

State House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, said he doesn't know what projects Fletcher may ax, but Western students probably shouldn't worry.

Richards said university projects, such as those approved for Western, are important for education. Also, administrators will pay for many of the approved projects through agency bonds. Kentucky leaders are working hard to increase education and encourage economic development in the state, and the projects that legislators approved help with those goals, he said.

Richards said he doesn't know what projects Fletcher might cut because each project has a group

of voters supporting it.

Most states don't include university bonds in the state debt estimation, and many don't include money used for transportation because there is a steady revenue stream from those projects, Richards said.

Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Bowling Green, was one of two legislators who voted against the budget. DeCesare said he voted against the budget because future generations and General Assemblies will have to pay off the debt.

"Those are going to be burdens on our children because the only way we're going to be able to pay for that is tax dollars," he said. DeCesare said he's not sure how safe Western's projects will be during the veto process, but he doesn't think Western projects are likely in danger because outside bonds will cover many of them.

University projects encourage development in infrastructure, education and the economy, and there are less important projects that Fletcher can cut, DeCesare said.

Reach Amber Coulter
at news@wkuherald.com



Gov. Ernie Fletcher

www.wkuherald.com



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News brief

University Senate may vote on several bills

Three bills and a resolution will go before the senate for approval at the University Senate meeting today.

The meeting will take place at 5 p.m. in the Kentucky Library.

The resolution would ask Western to supplement the retirement funds of faculty and staff who chose an Optional Retirement Plan. This would bring the overall contribution to their accounts to 8.1 percent.

Western contributes 13.84 percent of earnings to faculty retirement funds. ORP accounts receive 6.64 percent, while the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement Fund receives 7.2 percent.

President Gary Ransdell said he agreed to supplement ORP accounts to keep contributions at their current level. This would cost Western \$238,000.

Bringing the contribution up to 8.1 percent would cost Western more than \$600,000, said Tony Glisson, director of Human Resources.

Three bills will also be eligible for a vote today. One would establish a faculty ombudsman to moderate faculty disputes.

Another would allow faculty to approach someone other than their department head when reporting a grievance.

The third bill would allow faculty to postpone a tenure decision for up to one year if they have care-giving responsibilities, such as the birth of a child, that they feel interferes with their work.

Katie Brundenberg

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Spring is here! Thunder and the Derby are comin' up, so be prepared!

Vette City reminds you to drink responsibly.

The Creed

"Congress shall make no law ...
abridging the freedom of speech,
or of the press ..."

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

OPINION

College Heights Herald • Western Kentucky University • Thursday, April 20, 2006 • Page 4

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EDITORIAL

SGA misspending

SGA members should not have to be motivated by a giveaway to show up for meetings.

Over the past few weeks, more than enough space on this opinion page has been devoted to issues concerning the Student Government Association.

Positive and negative aspects have been discussed, because SGA can, and should, be an important organization on campus.

But SGA's consideration of a monetary incentive for its members is ridiculous and sad.

SGA has proposed a bill that would create a drawing at every regularly-scheduled meeting for a \$25 gift certificate to the University Bookstore.

Jenna Haugen, chair of the academic affairs committee, told the Herald the bill aims to increase student participation and combat lagging senior attendance.

The SGA seniors have barely met the mandatory 13 senator quorum requirement at meetings.

How can SGA expect the student body to take it seriously when their elected officials have trouble showing up for their own meetings?

If SGA has to give away prizes for people to do their job, then the organization needs to take a serious look at how meetings are conducted.

SGA should be for people who want to serve the student interest. If members cannot show up for meet-

ings, then they need to step down because they are not fulfilling their obligations to the students.

The SGA budget needs to be cut if there is enough extra money laying around to be given as incentives to its own members.

The money in the SGA budget should be used for projects which benefit people outside the meeting room. Take that \$25 and make it once a week on what SGA is doing and put them up around campus.

That purpose would certainly be better served than giving the money to lazy senators.

It is obvious from the number of people who voted in the SGA presidential election held last Wednesday that very few people care about SGA.

Only 1,342 students voted in the election. The editorial in Thursday's edition of the Herald called out students on not participating in the SGA election.

But how can students participate in something that has to bribe its own members to show up?

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member board of student editors.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigration should not be compared to WWII

This letter is in response to Steve Pulliam's comparison of immigration reform to the holocaust during WWII. After reading this, I have to say that it is the single craziest thing I have ever heard of and it is an insult to almost everyone in this country. If you truly believe that, then you don't really know anything about what's going on with immigration.

First off, it is easier for an immigrant to come into this country illegally than legally. Is this right for the ones who play by the rules and try to come here the right way? Second, many illegal immigrants aren't paying taxes. I pay my taxes and so do most Americans; is this right for illegal immigrants not to pay?

Third, we don't really know who's coming across our borders, do we? Along with the honest, hardworking immigrants also come criminals.

There have been numerous situations in this country where Americans have been victims of some act caused by an illegal alien, all because our partisan government won't stop bickering and find a solution.

The solution is this: close the borders and, over time, start getting the illegals out of here without giving amnesty to the ones already here illegally. We wouldn't hold them in camps, we just ship them back. Then we start a guest worker program that can fulfill our labor needs.

I know that sounds too easy and guess what, it really almost is. Finally, my last point: many of the people for open borders want to try and paint people against it as racists. Well, these people couldn't be more wrong.

Cass Collins
Freshman
Bowling Green

No more student fees

Great job on the "thumbs-up" for the new construction fee, Herald. I am overjoyed that the plethora of construction on Western Kentucky University's campus will be further perpetuated by the introduction of a \$46 "construction fee." With parking tickets, tuition and gas prices increasing, I am surprised at how deep my pockets truly are.

My three-year attendance at Western has yet to see construction at a halt; is there a "final" project? With the re-renewal of certain areas, the continuing repaving of roads, and the religion of concrete sidewalks, retaining walls, etc., this campus may succeed in either using all of its students' funds or destroying any natural aspect of the grounds.

Surely all students agree with ridding the campus of grassy areas, shade trees and wildlife. Hell! Put a new parking structure in front of Schneider as well as a new athletic facility in front of Preston Center — at least cover the grass field with concrete. Unquestionably, the months-long project between Downing University Center and Bates-Runner will be more beautiful than the grassy area that was covered.

I wish the administration would acknowledge their wanton destruction of our campus. One of Western's

largest attractions is its natural beauty; why take that away (along with my money)? Further, the campus spends millions of dollars getting rid of nature, then plans to spend thousands more to institute Greenways. I am sure most students will agree that the newly sodded field in front of Grise will have the same fate.

Jason Sloan
junior
Columbia, Tenn.

Students should give study abroad a chance

The Study Abroad Program is an excellent way to study the institutional, cultural and demographic aspects of a foreign society.

By becoming a part of the Study Abroad Program, you have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with students who are studying at a foreign university.

The program acknowledges a great structural format for students to learn in the classroom and experience education first hand by touring local businesses and historical monuments within the country.

Offered in several countries, the Study Abroad Program provides the opportunity for students to earn up to a full six hours of transferable credit for as little as completing a three- to six-week program.

After my three-week experience of studying abroad at the University of Laval in Quebec City, Canada, I left with an abundant amount of benefits I had gained from participating in the program.

One benefit that I had gained from the experience that most students look for when going through college is a resume builder.

A recent U.S. government survey concluded that, "Graduates who have studied abroad, or participated in professional work experiences in other countries, will have a distinct advantage in the job market."

As a business student, another benefit of the program was with touring businesses abroad in order to attain a better understanding of the importance of international business and the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the economies of Canada and the U.S.

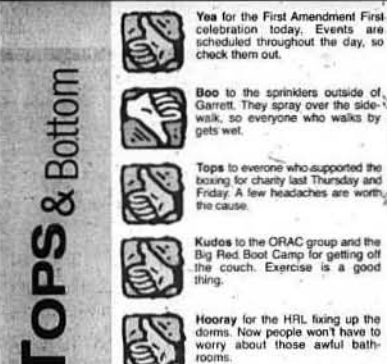
The last and most important benefit was in establishing friendships with individuals in a different country that will last for a lifetime.

Taking the chance to become a part of the Study Abroad Program has been a truly life-altering experience and the ultimate highlight of my college career. It's a tremendous asset that Western offers to its students, and I would encourage students to look into experiencing this extraordinary program.

For more information about the Study Abroad Program, contact Mr. Reed Vesey, coordinator of student programs, for the Gordon Ford College of Business, at reed.vesey@wku.edu, 745-5307, or Grise Hall room 451. You can also visit the Study Abroad Web site of help you become familiar with the programs and their location at www.wku.edu/gfcb/StudyAbroad/index.html.

Brian Dyer
senior
Scottsville

These are the Herald's views on the good, the bad and the slightly unattractive.



TOPS & BOTTOM

COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

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The Herald publishes Tuesdays and Thursdays

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MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
- Originality counts. There's no grade at stake here. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
- For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, phone number, hometown and occupation or title. Your article will be considered for publication if you fail to provide this information.
- If you choose to email your letter or commentary, please do not send it as an email attachment. We use Microsoft computers.
- Letters may not run in every edition due to space constraints.
- The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does not print UNDESIRABLE LETTERS OR COMMENTARIES.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this newspaper DO NOT reflect those of Western's administration or its employees.

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Campus life

Center opens with food, fashion

By A. LAYNE
STACKHOUSE
Herald reporter

When Franklin freshman Rachel Toomey stepped onto the improvised runway in Downing University Center room A-210, she looked more than confident; she looked professional.

"When you graduate, it's expected that you know how to dress appropriately," Toomey said, wearing a white blouse and a black suit.

As part of the activities celebrating the opening of the Student Success Center, "Attire for Hire" was designed to show students how to dress for job interviews.

Complete with music and male models, the program was sponsored by Career Services and Fashion Inc., the textiles, apparel and merchandise club.

Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. marked the grand opening of the Student Success Center, located in the new annex of DUC.

The offices of Career Services, Student Disabilities and Academic Advising and Retention (AARC) have now consolidated into the new building so students have all three services right in the heart of campus, AARC Director Ellen Bonaguro said.

"This is the university's commitment to help students be more successful," she said.

Bonaguro served as the chair for the Student Success Center Celebration Planning Committee, which had been meeting since January to prepare for Tuesday's events.

Students were invited to come to the events by a broadcast from Revolution 91.7, free food and a chance to win an iPod.

Events kicked off at 10 a.m. with "Wired for Success," where students could check out software and technology necessary for better student achievement.

"Attire for Hire" began at 2:15 p.m. and the day's activities ended with an awards reception for outstanding faculty, staff and students.

"With graduation looming and the need for many students to find summer jobs, these programs will help them be better prepared for the job search process," Career Services Director Becky Bennett said about the day's events.

Alex Sheikh, a junior from Columbus, Ohio, came for the free food and ended up with a lot of information about the resources the new center would provide for students like him.

"It is good that Western is putting such an emphasis on student success," he said, adding that he would probably take advantage of the new center's services.

The faculty awards ceremony toward the end of the day recognized the work of several

faculty members in the categories of teaching, research/creative activity, public service and student advisement.

"We want to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty," said Luther Hughes, associate vice president for academic affairs and provost's office.

Four professors from the each of the six colleges and two from the university libraries were selected; and one person will be selected at a later date from the four categories as the University Award winner.

Math Professor Robin Ayers was chosen from Ogden College to receive an award for student advisement, an area she feels often goes unrecognized.



Patrick Smith/Herald

Fashion show model Cubby Luckert shows off proper interview attire during the fashion show event in the Student Success Center. The fashion show was put on jointly by the textiles and apparel merchandising majors and the Career Services Center. The event was designed to inform students of proper and improper interview attire.

"It does make me feel really good to know that the work we put in, inside and outside the university, does not go unnoticed," Ayers said.

Student awards also took place Tuesday afternoon with 12 students being placed in the Hall of Distinguished Seniors.

"They have all been recognized for their involvement and achievements on campus," said Gene Tice, vice president for student affairs and campus services.

Melinda Lalonde, a senior

Campus life

Student group teaches about free enterprise

By NINA BOSKEN
Herald reporter

Seth Burkhardt, a senior from Clarksville, Tenn., had no idea where he was going with his business major last year.

"I was lacking direction and what opportunities I was going to pursue," he said.

A year later, he has four job offers he credits to a campus group.

Burkhardt is involved in Students in Free Enterprise, an organization in which students educate others about free enterprise by volunteering in the community and competing against other teams.

Free enterprise is business controlled by supply and demand, not restrained or controlled by the government.

SIFE is an international college organization, with chapters in 47 countries around the world, SIFE Faculty Adviser Leo Simpson said.

SIFE is sponsored by 560 companies and offers many job opportunities, such as recruitment and networking, Simpson said.

This is the second year for Western to have its own chapter of SIFE, Simpson said. There are 42 students on Western's SIFE team.

"Our general purpose is to educate people on the benefits of free enterprise," Simpson said. "We're very diverse; we encourage all types of members. If you're interested in being a part of this team we'll

find a place for you."

Western's SIFE team recently won the regional competition for the second year in a row on April 7 in Cincinnati. The team is now preparing for nationals on May 19 in Kansas City, Mo., Simpson said.

The team was also named "Best in the U.S." in a competition where seven SIFE teams from across the country paired with eighth grade classes to make a mock ice cream business, Burkhardt said.

"We're very passionate about what we do," Simpson said. "The camaraderie we have and support we give each other, the family feeling we have, sets us apart from other teams."

Some more specific educational topics SIFE students

focus on are market economics, success, skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and business ethics, according to the SIFE training manual.

Any full-time or part-time student can join SIFE. All they have to do is register at www.sife.org, said Kris Upchurch, a senior from Ponca City, Okla., and vice president of Western's SIFE chapter. Meetings are every Wednesday at 3:30 in Grise Hall auditorium.

"It's volunteer. You get out of SIFE what you put into it," Upchurch said.

Reach Nina Bosken at nbs@whherald.com.

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Forum educates public about judicial council role

There are 274 of the state's 276 elected judge seats available this November, Minton said.

The forum was encouraging as the first time the judicial council has hosted a guest speaker, Holland said. "I know for a fact that everyone here was interested," he said.

Reach Katie Brundenbury
at newsw@ksherald.com



Nick Adams/Herald

Christina Hall (right) talks with John Minton Jr., a judge on the 2d District Court of Appeals in Kentucky, as Amanda Allen (left) walks by. Minton is running unopposed for Supreme Court justice of Kentucky in November. Minton came to Western on Tuesday to talk with students about the judicial branch of Kentucky.

4

(IRONICALLY,
THE SAME
NUMBER OF
ISSUES LEFT
TO BE PRINTED
THIS YEAR...)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

state university in Kentucky.

The record one-time gift from a single donor at the University of Kentucky is \$14 million from Dil Gutton. UK spokesman Joe

The University of Louisville received a \$15 million gift in

received a \$15 million gift in 2002 from the James Graham Brown Foundation for the James Graham Brown Cancer Center and John Drexel, D of L, associate

U of I. received a second \$15

million donation from the foundation two years later, according to the school's Web site.

Baker is a 1951 graduate of the Bowling Green Business University, a sister institution to Western.

Baker has donated to the WKU Foundation and the College Heights Foundation before this major announcement, said Alex Downing, president of the College Heights Foundation.

The donor has also given to various departments at Western such as the music, arts and athletic

ics departments, Ramsdell said.

Some of his gifts are scholarships for the music and theater and dance departments and music department endowed professorship, according to inform-

Baker has also given an annual donation to the Bowling Green Capitol Arts during the organization's fund drive, said M. Thomas, executive director of the Capitol Arts Alliance, Inc.

The donor also sponsors annual art show for the Cape Arts, Thomas said.

"We all have a claim to Jerry," he said.

Baker could not be reached for comment.

Hiles and Bob Edwards, assistant vice president for university relations, refused to comment further on the donation until the press conference today. See www.wisnherald.com this afternoon for the updated story.

Reach Amber Coulter
at news@sekuherald.com.

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Student government

Time restraints halt veto appeal

By KATIE BRANDENBURG
Herald reporter

Civic engagement grants were a reality for only about 30 minutes Tuesday.

The executive board of the Student Government Association vetoed a bill after the senate meeting on Tuesday that would finance community and campus-oriented projects.

This is the first time it has exercised its veto power this year.

The decision came after the senate approved the bill in a 9-7 vote. There was one abstention.

The bill proposed to use money remaining in an SGA miscellaneous fund at the end of the semester to supply grants for as much as \$500. The grants would be awarded to students working on a project that benefits Western and the community.

The last time the executive board used its veto power was in

spring 2005 when it vetoed a bill pledging \$500 to tsunami relief, the Herald previously reported.

Senators voiced concern about the bill's similarity to the organizational aid program, which is money SGA provides once a year to campus groups.

Some senators were also concerned that SGA could not verify that the grant money was being used for its intended purpose.

Marion junior Jenna Haugen, who co-authored the bill and is chair of academic affairs committee, said the grants would differ from organizational aid because individual students would receive money for projects instead of needing support from a group.

"I think it's a little upsetting," Haugen said when she heard about the veto about half an hour after the bill was approved.

Haugen said she was going to work on a more thorough outline of the requirements for the grants.

There will not be an appeal because of time limitations, but she may revisit the topic next semester, Haugen said. SGA's last meeting is April 25.

Jackson senior Joshua Collins abstained from voting for the bill.

Collins said he did not want to tie the financial hands of next semester's senate by committing them to a large project.

"I think it's a very interesting program worthwhile to be investigated," Collins said.

The executive board must inform the author within 48 hours after vetoing a piece of legislation and report to the senate at the next scheduled meeting, according to the SGA bylaws.

The senate can override an executive board veto with a two-thirds majority vote, according to the SGA constitution.

Reach Katie Brandenburg at news@wsherald.com.

Campus life

Western celebrates famous author

By NINA BOSKEN
Herald reporter

Famous authors aren't just from large cities. Kentucky has its own renowned author, from Guthrie nearby Todd County and Western will celebrate his legacy this weekend.

The 19th annual Robert Penn Warren celebration will be held at Western Saturday and Sunday. The celebration features a high school and college essay contest, a series of literary speakers and John Burt, Brandeis University professor of English and literary executor for Warren, speaking about Warren's life.

The celebration will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in Cherry Hall room 125. It will continue at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Media and Technology Hall. Warren won Pulitzer Prizes

in fiction and poetry.

April 24 is Warren's birthday, said Mary Ellen Miller, English professor and event coordinator. The Robert Penn Warren Committee puts together a celebration for Warren every year around this time.

This is the second year for the essay contest, Miller said. The winners will receive a gift presented by Warren's children, Rosanna and Gabriel Warren.

The event is sponsored by Western's Robert Penn Warren Committee, the English department and Potter College Dean David Lee.

The Robert Penn Warren Committee was started to promote the reading of his works, Miller said.

Trish Jagers, office associate of the women's studies office, is a member of the Warren

Committee. She graduated from Western with an English degree and had Miller as a professor.

"I really enjoyed having her in class," she said. "I really admire Warren's writing, and she encouraged me in attending."

The Warren Committee has put together a book of scholarly essays on Warren and his influence on American literature and culture, said Ted Hoyet, associate English professor and a member of the Warren Committee. The first five volumes can be purchased on Sunday during the reception, he said.

"I hope a lot of people come," Miller said. "We like to see familiar faces and new faces. It's free and open, both educating and fun."

Reach Nina Bosken at news@wsherald.com.

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Campus life

Professional copy service center to open in DUC by fall

By BOBBY HARRELL
Herald reporter

Students wanting professional copy-making services won't even have to leave campus.

A copy center run partially by students could open between June and the beginning of the fall semester, said Leo Simpson, adviser for Students in Free Enterprise.

The copy center will be called the WKU SIFE Copy Center and will be built next to the post office on the first floor of the Downing University Center, Simpson said.

Dining Services' marketing department is currently located there, said Gary Meszaros, director of Auxiliary Services. SIFE, Auxiliary Services and Ikon, an office equipment company, are partners in the copy center, Burkhardt said.

SIFE is open to all students and has 2,000 chapters in 48 countries, SIFE President Seth Burkhardt said.

The full-service copy center will provide collating and binding services off-campus at the local Ikon office, Simpson said. Simpson said he hopes the copies will be returned to the

copy center on the same day.

The copy center will eventually pay for scholarships and employment for SIFE members, Simpson said.

The project began when one of the members of SIFE was inspired by her previous job at Kinko's, Simpson said. SIFE members also attended a national SIFE conference, where many award-winning chapters had student-run businesses.

The group informally surveyed their friends about bringing a copy center to Western, Simpson said.

Interest was high, which

spurred the development of the center.

Students will be able to email their documents to the center and pay for the copies online, Simpson said.

Initial revenue from the copy center will pay for remodeling the space, he said.

SIFE members teamed with Western officials in developing the copy center after both groups discovered they were working on creating an on-campus business, Simpson said.

The SIFE members chose the Ikon company to help run the center because Western

already had a contract with the company for its printing services, he said.

Western's primary printer while providing services for the copy center, Simpson said. SIFE will bring in expertise, equipment and two employees in the beginning while providing day-to-day management at the copy center, he said.

More employees will be added when needed, Simpson said.

SIFE will provide free marketing and publicity for the copy center, Burkhardt said. Auxiliary Services will man-

age the copy center and be financially responsible for it, Meszaros said.

Hopefully, management will one day be passed on to SIFE members, he said.

The center will be convenient for students, Meszaros said.

As a part-time faculty member, his students could spruce up their reports by binding them at the copy center.

"We're providing a service students need," Meszaros said.

Reach Bobby Harrell at news@wkuherald.com.

LEGALIZATION: Origin of '4-20' debated KEES: Many students lose award

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Some believe that marijuana grew free and wild on Highway 420 in the United States during the 1960s. Though there are several rumors about the creation and origin of 4-20, no one has an exact truth as to why the day is so special to weed lovers.

Louisville senior Daniel Trujillo, the CAB vice president, said Heads vs. Feet is designed to educate and inform students.

"We want to cover all sides, not to say which side is right or wrong," Trujillo said. "Overall, we just want to educate people on the whole issue."

This debate dates back to the 1930s, when several marijuana opponents argued that the drug was negatively affecting society. In 1937, regulatory laws were passed and criminal penalties came about for the growth, possession or sale of the drug.

Those in favor of marijuana legalization argue that it is a stress reliever and pacifies individuals. They also claim it is less harmful than alcohol and cigarettes and that no one has ever died from it.

Many believe legalization will result in reduced crime

rates because there will be no underground culture for the drug. Pro-legalizers also argue that legalizing marijuana will improve the economy because legalization would allow the government to place a tax on it.

Anti-legalizers argue that crime rates will increase because prohibitions will be lowered. They also say marijuana is a gateway drug that will eventually lead to harder drug use. Denver took the first steps in the direction of legalization in November 2005. Citizens of the city over the age of 21 are allowed to possess one ounce for personal use in the city. Underage citizens possessing marijuana and people possess-

ing more than the legal limit will still face criminal charges.

Louisville senior Terrance Harris is the lecture chair for CAB and is responsible for bringing diverse speakers and a wide array of events to Western. He said the event will be interesting because it will give students the opportunity to understand both sides of the argument.

"The purpose of the event is to inform people about marijuana," Harris said. "It's not necessarily to change their minds, but to have them look at it from a different spectrum."

Reach Stephanie Keene at features@wkuherald.com.

Marijuana Facts

- The enforcement of state and local marijuana laws costs American law payers approximately \$7.6 billion annually, or \$10,400 per arrest.
- Kentucky has the fourth-highest marijuana-related arrest rate per capita with 304 arrests per 100,000 people.
- There are over 1,000 reported songs about marijuana, with one of the oldest dating back to 1925: "Reefer Man," by Baron Lee and the Bull Rhythm Band.

- The government estimates that Denver spent \$18 to \$20 billion on marijuana in 2005, compared to the \$10 billion spent in 1996.
- The top five states for marijuana arrests are California, with 65,111 arrests per year; New York, with 57,504 arrests per year; Texas, with 51,563 arrests per year; Illinois, with 41,447 arrests per year; and Georgia, with 23,977 arrests per year.

Source: www.horri.org

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Kentucky Lottery profits fund the KEES program and gives students money for good grades, he said.

For getting a 2.5 grade point average in high school, students can get \$125, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Web site. For a 4.0 GPA, it's \$500.

Students can also receive bonus money for American College Testing awards, the Web site stated.

Students are required to maintain at least a 2.5 average their first year in college to keep their grades up, Kash said. After the first year, students must keep a 3.0.

The professors found that of students with a high school GPA of about 2.5, less than one-third used the award. Out of that

fraction, one-third only kept it for a year, Kash said.

Kash and Lasley found that KEES money requirements make average students keep the same kinds of grades in college as they had in high school, when college should be harder than high school.

Students tend to drop out after not being able to keep their grades up, Kash said.

High school students with 4.0 GPAs also tend not to use the money that much, Kash said.

Students with better grades are usually countered with offers of scholarships by universities and colleges out of state, he said.

KEES money also doesn't keep pace with rising tuition, Kash said.

"The thing that concerns me the most is it's not that effective

a program," Lasley said.

Lasley said the program could be improved by having Kentucky officials define exactly what they want out of the program. Need-based programs could also be used to help low-income students.

Louisville sophomore Sara Smith pays for college with KEES money and FAFSA loans.

She made Bs in high school and a score of 24 on the ACT after taking it a few times.

Her parents are glad for every cent she gets for college. They stressed to Smith that she had to do well on the ACT to get KEES money, she said.

"Every little bit counts to tuition," Smith said.

Reach Bobby Harrell at news@wkuherald.com.

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What's your story?



Jessica Acosta

Travel gave student new passion

BY SAMANTHA HUPMAN
Herald reporter

A study abroad trip to South America left Madisonville freshman Jessica Acosta with an interesting souvenir: a love of Capoeira.

Capoeira is a dance-like Brazilian martial art. It was created by African slaves brought to South America during the colonial period, and is usually done to music.

"It has a little of everything," Acosta said. "It's self-defense, acrobatics and music. It's challenging and fun."

The year after she graduated from high school, Acosta studied at a high school in Peru. She started practicing Capoeira while she was there.

Acosta started an official sports club at Western for the acrobatic art. The group has about 30 members and meets at the Preston Center, she said. "We have lots of beginners," she said. "It's fun."

Acosta belongs to an international Capoeira association. She is the only member who has founded a club in the United States. The group practices by making a circle and clapping their hands along with music. There is a call-and-response singing pattern, and participants go into the circle and perform.

"I'm in love with Latin America. I'm going back this summer."

— Jessica Acosta
Madisonville freshman

Acosta is the secretary of the club. She said she had an interest in martial arts and met Acosta in a calculus class. The two began talking and are now friends.

"She's smart and funny, and interesting," Calderon said. "You can talk about a lot of things with her."

They spend time together watching movies, talking and playing video games. With Calderon's husband, Nashville

sophomore Jason Musser, Musser said he spends a lot of time listening to the two women talking. He describes Acosta as "goofy."

"She's a good person," he said. Acosta is a civil engineering major. She said she likes math and science, especially physics. "You can see a bridge, and say, 'Oh, I helped design that,'" she said.

She has moved around the United States with her mother, a family nurse practitioner, and her two sisters, aged 17 and 20. They lived in Texas and Maine before coming to Kentucky, she said. "You get a taste of everything," she said.

After considering attending college in Maine, she came to Western to stay close to her family and be able to go home some weekends. Even though she wanted to stay close, she values her experiences studying abroad.

"I'm in love with Latin America," she said. "I'm going back this summer."

Reach Samantha Hupman at features@wkuherald.com.

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Column

Status changes after high school



BLACK LINE MUSINGS

Lisa Ross

This one is for the younguns... I am 22 years old and not ashamed to say I still get an Easter basket.

This year the Easter Bunny brought me season two of "Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman." It's my guilty pleasure.

After two-and-a-half days of watching the story of a man who lives a double life, I realized that he's not so different from "ordi-

nary" people after all.

After four years I've realized that it's possible to feel like you're living a double life.

And like Superman, it's not always by choice.

Let's travel back in time about six years. Ah yes, the high school days. My high school had all the cliché cliques — cheerleaders, jocks, nerds, thugs. You name it, we had it.

I had a great group of friends. They were some of the best friends in the world. Still are. But if you had to stereotype us, we'd be in the "jock" category — the Clark Kents of the world.

We were the ones who didn't go to most of the school dances. We weren't invited to all the "cool" parties. The "in crowd" didn't even know our names.

Flash forward to college. My group of friends from high school is about to graduate, and we still keep in touch. Magically, our status has

changed. None of us are "losers" anymore. BAM! — we've become Superman (or woman). The cliques don't seem to be as important as they were several years ago. There are parties for everyone. There are groups for all interests. The drama that surrounded high school is for the most part gone.

It may be difficult to notice this if you have the ability to go home every weekend or if half of your high school graduating class attends this university. But when you only return home about five times a year, there seems to be a disconnect between the person you were and the person you have become.

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And I just might let you borrow my collection of "Lois and Clark" DVDs if you ask nicely.

Lisa Ross is a senior news/editorial journalism and advertising double major from Highland, Ind.

The views and opinions expressed in this column do not express those of the Herald or of the university.

Reach Lisa Ross at lross@whsaherald.com.

PARKING: Protestors oppose increase

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The projects include a new health services building and the student publications building.

About 400 parking spaces will be lost if the increases are not approved by the administrative council, Tougas said.

About 200 students, faculty and staff members attended the lively and tense early forum to protest the proposed fees and to understand the necessity of the increases. About 75 percent of the crowd were faculty and staff members.

The group asked about the possibility of changing for parking based on an employee's salary, the reasoning behind the rapid expansion of the parking and transportation department and a possible ban of freshman parking.

The crowd rallied and applauded when Electrical Shop Supervisor Wayne Berthelot asked why parking fees weren't charged based on pay rates.

Berthelot said increased insurance rates, the rise in the cost of living and extra fees have decreased his net pay in comparison to when he began working at Western.

Elizabeth Paris, business coor-

dinater for information technology, challenged why the department has grown from four employees to 24 in a year and if the added staff was essential.

Paris said all departments need staff and money but they receive aid gradually, and the same standard should be applied to parking.

"Why can't the parking department save by hiring less instead of charging more?" Paris said as her colleagues cheered.

Tougas said the department had to create positions as its responsibilities grew.

A third topic that stirred the crowd in agreement was banning freshmen from having cars on campus.

Leitchfield junior Melissa Constant said freshmen need to earn the right to drive on campus by lasting more than a year.

In the more subdued later forum, about 30 students and faculty and staff members attended and discussed ways to save money by cutting the internal shuttle loop and better enforcement of parking zones.

Reach Andrew McNamara at anews@whsaherald.com.

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Baseball

Five-game road trip to end with weekend series

By DAVID HARTEN
Herald reporter

Western will get a break from its conference schedule after ending last weekend at the bottom of the Sun Belt Conference rankings.

The Toppers will meet Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne at Denes Field this weekend. The games are 6 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. It will be the Toppers' (15-17, 3-9 Sun Belt Conference East Division) first non-conference series since they swept a two-game series against Akron at Denes Field on March 17 and 18. It will be the Toppers first home series since they

were swept by Troy April 7-9.

Coach Chris Finwood said that while he does not know much about IPFW, he wants the team to focus on what they need to do to improve this weekend.

"I couldn't tell you the first thing about them, because we haven't looked at the tape on them yet. We'll do that tomorrow," he said. "But we really need to get back to fundamental baseball, and like I mentioned before, getting more energy and more enthusiasm."

IPFW (16-17) and the Toppers have both faced Central Michigan. Though Western was swept by the Chippewas earlier this season, IPFW split two games with them.

The Mastodons have won four of their last six games, but they lost at Notre Dame yesterday.

Senior second baseman Matt Ramsdell said the team must look to improve in all areas of the game to be successful this weekend.

"We just need to get good performance both at the plate and on the mound," he said. "We just need to be more consistent as a team."

The Mastodons are led by 10 seniors on their roster. Also, 20 of the team's 24-man roster are from Indiana. IPFW finished 19-32 last season and didn't make the NCAA Division I Independent tournament.

Freshman pitcher Chad Adcock

said the team is welcoming the return home after a five-game road trip.

"Oh, it's definitely a big advantage coming home," Adcock said. "Being around the home fans really helps us on the field. The fans really get behind us as a team."

The Toppers will be looking to bounce back after dropping an 11-5 decision at Austin Peay Tuesday night. The loss is Western's second straight and seventh in its last eight games.

The Governors (21-15, 5-7 Ohio Valley Conference) jumped out to a 3-0 lead by the bottom of the third inning.

Western was able to narrow the gap to 3-2 thanks to Ramsdell's third home

run of the season in the following frame. Four runs in the bottom of the fifth and eighth innings sealed the victory for the Governors.

Junior catcher Jordan Newton added his team-leading seventh home run of the season in the top of the eighth inning, but it was too late.

"We let all six of their (Austin Peay) walks score," he said. "That's the name of the game, you can't walk guys. We actually struck out 13 of their guys. It's timely hitting. Baseball is about timely hitting, and they got the timely hits and we didn't."

Reach David Harten
at sports@wkherald.com.

Tennis

Western ready for Sun Belt

By WILL PERKINS
Herald reporter

After getting knocked out in the first rounds of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last year, the men and women's tennis teams look to upset their competition and make some noise this year.

The tournament begins tomorrow in Mobile, Ala., and both Western teams are ranked last in their respective brackets.

No. 7 seed Toppers play No. 2 seed Louisiana-Lafayette at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow. No. 10 seed Lady Toppers play No. 7 seed Arkansas State at 9 a.m.

The three-day, single-elimination tournament will continue on Saturday and Sunday.

The Toppers (12-6) haven't played Louisiana-Lafayette or any of the teams on the Ragin' Cajuns' schedule this season.

"The Sun Belt will be extremely difficult," coach Jeff True said. "Most of the teams are [nationally] ranked."

According to the Fila Collegiate Tennis Rankings posted Monday, the Ragin' Cajuns (13-6) are nationally ranked at No. 43.

The Ragin' Cajuns defeated four of nine ranked teams they faced this season, including No. 19 Florida State, No. 48 South Alabama and No. 64 Ball State.

Ragin' Cajuns senior Evghenii Corduneanu is individually ranked No. 95 in the nation, and he finished his season 13-5. He won his last seven out of 10 singles matches.

Sophomore David Bowman said it's good they don't have to play the No. 1 seed in the first round like last year.

"It'd be nice to pull off the upset," he said. "But we'll just try to get in there and play as hard as we can."

The Lady Toppers (10-7) won't play the No. 2 team unless they make the second round, but Arkansas State (11-7) isn't a team to be overlooked. Arkansas State's lone senior Marina Engelbrecht won her 17th singles match of the season when she defeated Louisiana-Lafayette freshman Clemence Remy on April 13.

Arkansas State dropped the match 6-1, but the Louisiana-

Lafayette women (14-5) are No. 71 in the nation and No. 4 in the Sun Belt bracket.

The only way the Lady

Toppers could meet Louisiana-Lafayette is if they both make it to the championship game.

Freshman Erin Fulkerson said the Lady Toppers have focused more on match play in their practices.

"In recent years, the team hasn't won a match in conference play," Fulkerson said. "[This year] we think we can compete."

If the Toppers defeat the Ragin' Cajuns, they will play either No. 3 South Alabama or No. 6 Troy State at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

If the Lady Toppers defeat Arkansas State, they will play No. 2 Denver at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow.

No. 1 seed Middle Tennessee for the men and No. 1 seed Florida International (17-5) for the women are each looking for a repeat championship.

Reach Will Perkins
at sports@wkherald.com.

SHINES: Gaebler is raising the bar this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

While Gaebler may have been an unknown to many, Elson said he had the tools to make an impact last season if it weren't for a pre-season injury.

"If he had not hurt his hamstring in pre-season camp, who knows what would've happened," Elson said. "We felt like we had some pretty good depth at receiver, so we didn't see any need in trying to rush him back. You always wanna try to redshirt when you can, but we want guys to compete and, had he been healthy, he would've competed to play."

Gaebler said the transition from scout team to spring prac-

tice has been difficult at times, especially in memorizing plays. He and Huddix worked on their timing and execution even before spring practice began, he said.

"After the season started, we started right up with seven-on-seven passing and just getting out there," Gaebler said. "The more practices we have, the more comfortable I think we both feel with each other and running the routes and the timing."

In an effort to help solve the lack of depth at receiver, Western has also moved junior Blake Ladson from quarterback to a permanent position at receiver. Ladson saw only spot

duty as back-up quarterback last season.

"We have guys that are willing to step up," Gaebler said. "Blake will help us out a lot and Curtis is back, so it's definitely gonna be fun to watch."

Elson said Gaebler still has areas in which he can improve to better himself by next fall.

"He's a competitor, and he does a good job in the run game blocking as well as making plays down the field," Elson said. "He's gotta learn some things on assignments blocking and alignments, but that'll come with time."

Reach Jason Stamm
at sports@wkherald.com.

Sports brief

Toppers sign forward

For the second week in a row, the Toppers have added another seat to their bench.

Western announced yesterday it signed Jeremy Evans, a 6-foot-8, 190-pound forward from Crossett, Ark.

With Evans' addition, the Toppers now have 14 players on scholarship.

NCAA rules allow teams just 13 players on scholarships,

which means one current Topper will either leave or not have their scholarship renewed for next season.

Coach Darrin Horn is out of town and unavailable for comment.

Evans averaged 25.6 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks last season while leading Crossett High School to a 17-0 record and state tournament berth.

Evans was also an all-state

and all-conference selection last season.

"Jeremy is a great addition to our program because he's versatile and athletic," Horn said in a press release. "We think that his best basketball is ahead of him."

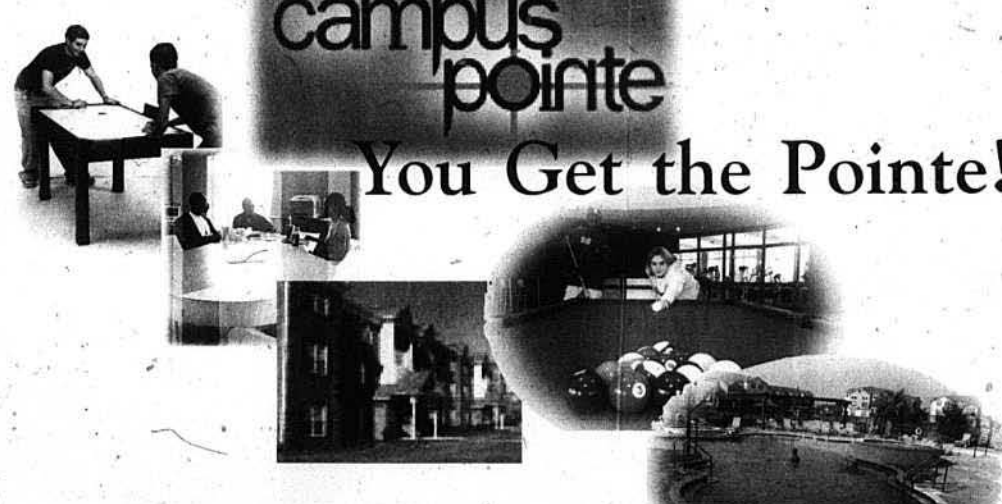
Last week, Western signed junior college transfer Tyrone Brazelton to next season's roster.

— Jason Stamm

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PREVENT: Cronk should return to line-up against FIU Saturday



Greg Barnett/Herald

Senior outfielder Reelika Toliver, senior catcher Sam Young and senior pitcher Adrienne Lathrop watch as their team loses the second of a two-game series against Eastern yesterday. Western won the first game 2-1.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

the board in the bottom of the fourth with freshman catcher Amanda Ford-Feira's solo home run to center field.

Despite adding a run in the bottom of the fifth, the Lady Toppers dropped the decision to Eastern 5-2.

The Lady Toppers collected the win from the Colonels in the first game, 2-1.

Rolf's lead-off home run over the center field fence gave the Lady Toppers the 1-0 lead over the Colonels.

Freshman third baseman Rebecca Horesky added another run for the Lady Toppers in the top of the first.

Horesky's single to right brought home senior outfielder Jennifer Brooks, who walked earlier in the inning.

After driving a single to center field, freshman second baseman Sam Cronk turned her ankle getting a lead off of first base, causing her to make an early exit from the game.

Freshman infielder Terri Ellingworth replaced Cronk at second in the top of the third inning.

Despite Cronk's injury, Lawson said she will be back in action this weekend for the Golden Panthers.

"She probably could have played the second game, but since it wasn't conference play, we decided to give her a break," Lawson said.

The Colonels cut the lead to one in the top of the third when junior Amy Mayrhofer scored off a double from sophomore second baseman Chance Patterson.

Behind the pitching of freshman Ryan Rogge, the Lady Toppers did not allow another run, sealing the game 2-1.

Rogge earned her first collegiate win of the season from the circle, and Horesky led the Lady Toppers in hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk.

Despite the loss, the Colonels were good practice for the series with FIU, Rolf said.

"They (Eastern) are very fast, and they like to steal a lot," she said. "And FIU has an ungodly amount of steals. They are going to break a school record this year. Almost every single person in their line-up steals bases, so (Eastern) was good preparation."

Reach Abbey Shull
at sports@whkherald.com

TRACK: Team must move.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Of the potential candidates for the new location, the old football practice field across from University Boulevard seems to be the favorite.

The field, which sits across the railroad tracks from the stadium, served as the Toppers' practice complex until 2003.

Junior hurdler James Hanchett said the relocation is unfair and a negative for potential recruits.

"I think it could be a hindrance to the team," Hanchett said. "Anything less convenient is a minus for recruiting, even going across the street. It's an unfair obstacle we have to face."

Bowling Green Mayor Elaine Walker said talks have included a possible joint venture from the city and Western to find land for the new track.

Those talks included the idea of a public facility that would also host high school track meets, but would be primarily for use by Western athletes.

Walker said an off-campus track facility would benefit the city financially.

"There's a strong draw for high school and collegiate track meets," Walker said. "But if we want to make this happen, it needs to be mutually beneficial."

Though Western's agricultural farm off Nashville Road and the miramonte complex on Campbell Lane were initially projected locations for the new facility, Long said both of those ideas have been nixed.

Long said it is desirable to have a spot as close to campus as possible, but he realizes the land limitations.

"The university is pretty land-locked," Long said. "Finding a spot on campus puts everyone in a compromising position, but we want an on-campus facility."

Long said the old football practice field is the best site for a new track in terms of location.

"I have trust in Dr. Selig to do the absolute best for the program," Long said. "We're concerned about the move, but we have faith in the people we work for."

Long said the team has until November to continue using the track and field facilities at the stadium, where the renovation is scheduled to begin.

The track team will host the National City Invitational meet at the stadium April 28 and 29. It is the only home meet for Western this year.

Reach Jake Mitchell
at sports@whkherald.com

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Notable

• The men's golf team won its first Sun Belt Conference Tournament yesterday. Junior Brent Long led the Toppers to victory—he sank a 25-foot birdie putt to get the team in playoff rounds and was the overall winner.

SPORTS

College Heights Herald • Western Kentucky University • Thursday, April 20, 2006 • Page 14

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Errors prevent sweep

By ABREY SHULL
Herald reporter

Even though senior shortstop Bailey Rolfs cranked her eighth home run of the season in game one of Western's doubleheader, with Eastern Kentucky, the Lady Toppers were unable to take the day.

The Lady Toppers (23-21) split their doubleheader with in-state rival Eastern yesterday at the WKU softball complex.

The Lady Toppers edged the Colonels 2-1 in the first game, but lost the second 5-2.

Even with the split, coach Rachel Lawson said she was pleased overall with the Lady Toppers' performance.

The Lady Toppers go back to Sun Belt Conference action at home this weekend when they face off against Florida International in a three-game series.

Action will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday with a doubleheader, and the Lady Toppers will wrap up the series with the Golden Panthers at noon Sunday.

Despite doing well offensively, the Lady Toppers made too many errors in the field in both games against Eastern, sophomore first baseman Shelby Smith said.

"We made a lot of errors that we don't usually make," Smith said. "We needed to make better defensive plays."

In the second game, the Colonels got on board early with two runs in the top of the first.

Eastern (26-20) extended its lead to 5-0 in the top of the fourth, scoring three runs off senior pitcher Adrienne Lathrop.

Lathrop had replaced freshman pitcher Jennifer Kempt on the mound after three innings of work.

The Lady Toppers jumped on



Senior shortstop Bailey Rolfs snags a ball at third base as Eastern freshman outfielder Pam Webber arrives safely on base. Rolfs led off the game with her eighth home run of the season.

Greg Barnett/Herald

Gaebler shines in spring practice

Freshman becomes key receiver

By JASON STAMM
Herald reporter

Last season, freshman receiver Jake Gaebler cumulated Western's opposing receivers for the team's next game.

As a redshirt and member of the scout team, Gaebler studied the receivers of the Toppers' upcoming opponent and mimicked them in practice to help Western's defense.

This fall, the Toppers' opponents' scout teams will be mimicking Gaebler.

Gaebler has risen through the ranks in spring practice, becoming one of Western's top receiving threats.

"There were a lot of receivers last year, and I knew I was probably gonna redshirt and know my role on the team was to get the defense better for the games," Gaebler said. "It

gave me a year to mature and get bigger and stronger and learn the offense."

Gaebler continued his impressive spring Monday as he led all receivers with four catches for 62 yards.

"He's in our top two right now with (sophomore receiver) Curtis Hamilton, and he makes some big plays when he catches the ball," junior quarterback Justin Haddix said. "We just started throwing this spring together, but I'm getting more comfortable knowing where he's gonna go and getting used to his speed."

Gaebler's play this spring is even more important after the Toppers lost their top two receivers from last season.

Maurice Perkins finished his eligibility, and junior Chris Jackson left the team before spring break. The two combined for 62 catches and 984 yards last season.



Freshman receiver Jake Gaebler is rising through the ranks. After a year as a redshirt and a member of the scout team, Gaebler is considered one of the team's top two receivers.

Julie Kish/Herald

Hamilton is the leading returning receiver from last season with 20 catches for 408 yards.

With only five healthy receivers, coach David Elson said Gaebler has been impressive in keeping his fellow receivers in check.

"What he's doing is showing all these guys that either aren't in now or that are going is that there's great competition," Elson said. "He's raising the level and raising the bar, and everybody's gotta step up and be ready to compete."

See Sports, page 12

Golf

Tops win first SBC golf title

Long claims men's title

By WILL PERKINS
Herald reporter

Though they had a five-stroke lead going into the final day of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, it took a three-team playoff for the men's golf team to get the victory.

It was the first time in Western history that the Toppers won the Sun Belt title.

Junior Brent Long won the tournament individually in regulation. The Toppers, however, were forced into a three-way playoff with South Alabama and North Texas for the title.

Coach Brian Tirpak said they were behind the entire playoff until Long sank a 25-foot birdie putt for the victory.

"It was an explosive moment," Tirpak said. "It was awesome."

Long said he was pretty nervous going into the playoff because of his final round performance.

"I didn't hit the ball well (yesterday)," he said. "But I had a good drive off the first tee (of the playoff), and I felt pretty good."

The victory was special because the team spent its spring season playing for a teammate, junior Jared Salvia, who was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma in December, senior Robby Shaw said.

Shaw said the team hadn't been able to speak with Salvia on the phone, but they talked with his mother after the tournament.

"Salvia hasn't even been able to smile at the news of the team's spring success," Shaw said. "But we heard that Salvia smiled when he found out we won."

The Toppers led through the first two days of the tournament.

Long shot a five-under-par 67 on day one, and Shaw tied for seventh with a round of 71.

Junior Justin Perry finished with an even-par 72, tied for 13th.

After the second round, the Toppers led the tournament by five strokes over the defending champion South Alabama.

Long shot a 68 to stay in the lead with a two-day nine-under-par performance, four strokes ahead of South Alabama's Johnny Caldwell.

Senior Parker Scarbro went from shooting the team's highest opening

round to scoring a team second, best 71, while junior Troy Hawkins also improved his score with a 73 after the second round.

The Toppers advance to the NCAA Regionals for the first time. They will be held May 18-20 in Orlando, Fla., Cleveland and Tucson, Ariz. The field will be announced May 8.

The Lady Toppers finished the tournament in ninth place.

Megan Pensinger finished the tournament tied for 17th, and Lindsey King finished tied for 33rd.

Junior Sarah Colbert said they did pretty well as a team and improved from last year.

Denver won the women's title three strokes ahead of North Texas.

Tirpak said he wanted to make sure Salvia felt part of the experience.

"J-ROCK, this is for you," he said.

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Track and field

Track team to move from Smith Stadium

By JAKE MITCHELL
Herald reporter

The plans are unclear, but one thing is certain: after this year, Western's track and field team will no longer call Smith Stadium home.

Renovations to Smith Stadium, which will begin later this year, are forcing the track out of Smith Stadium and into another location.

An academic and athletic training facility opposite the stands at the stadium will occupy the land that the current track sits on.

Athletic Director Wood Selig said the idea to move the

track is no surprise, but there is still no positive location or date for the move.

"We've looked at spots all over the map," Selig said. "Our goal is to get the best spot and nicest facility possible."

Although there is no set deadline, Selig said he hopes to have the plans for a new facility ironed out by late spring.

Track coach Curtiss Long said planning has gone on for over a year, and hopes a new facility can be in the works soon. He said the new facility could possibly cost up to \$5 million.

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